

Bulletin

FEBRUARY 9, 1949

SHEVAT 10, 5709

Jewish Music Festival Month Begins Feb. 11th

Rabbi Albert I. Gordon To Speak Feb. 18th

'Jews in Transition' Topic for United Synagogue Sabbath

For the first time in the history of the Conservative Movement, a National United Synagogue Sabbath has been proclaimed for February 18, 1949, and will be marked by special observances in all Conservative congregations throughout the country and in Canada.

On this occasion Rabbi Albert I. Gordon, Executive Director of the United Synagogue of America, will visit this Congregation as its guest preacher. The author of "Jews in Transition", a study of Jewish life in the mid-west, he has chosen this as his topic for the evening.

Rabbi Gordon, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, attended the University of Pennsylvania and received his B.A. degree from New York University, his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Minnesota. He was ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 1929. In 1930 he accepted the call



RABBI ALBERT I. GORDON

of Adath Jeshurun Synagogue in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and occupied that
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Oscar Julius Choir to be Heard in Traditional Program

On Friday evening, February 11th, a special musical service, which is being arranged by Cantor Putterman in observance of "Jewish Music Festival" Month, will take place. This service is being held under the auspices of the Committee on Adult Education. It is fitting and appropriate that Jewish Music Month begin on this Sabbath, since this particular day is known as *Shabbat Shirah*, Sabbath of Song.

The music of this service will be in the old, traditional form which our parents and grandparents were accustomed to hearing in more traditional or orthodox synagogues. Since our Synagogue is dedicated to preserving the best and most beautiful elements of our tradition, this service will give the Congregation an opportunity to hear a musical service of compositions rarely heard in Conservative synagogues.

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Shabbat Eve Friday, February 11th, 8:30 p.m.

Jewish Music Festival Service

Oscar Julius Choir

Shabbat Morning Saturday, February 12th, 10:00 a.m.

Rabbi Steinberg will preach on

"Portraits of Lincoln"

Shabbat Eve Friday, February 18th, 8:30 p.m.

United Synagogue Sabbath—Rabbi Albert I. Gordon will preach on

"Jews in Transition"

Shabbat Morning Saturday, February 19th, 10:00 a.m.

Rabbi Kertzer will preach on

"A New Approach to Brotherhood"

Junior Congregation Service at 10:30 a.m.

Musical portion of Services under the direction of Cantor Putterman, assisted by choir. Mr. Isidor Geller at the organ.

Daily Evening Worship..... 5:45 p.m.

Attendance at Services Sabbath Morning Urged

All members of the Congregation are urged to attend the *Shabbat Morning* Services. On the morning of Saturday, February 12th, Rabbi Steinberg will speak on "Portraits of Lincoln." On Saturday, February 19th, Rabbi Kertzer will discuss "A New Approach to Brotherhood." Saturday morning services begin promptly at 10:00 a.m.

The Junior Congregation conducts its own services each Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m. under the leadership of Mr. Sanford Hahn.

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VOL. 3 No. 9

From The Desk of Rabbi Steinberg

THIS is the thesis of the messages addressed by the President, the Chairman of the Board and the Rabbis to the membership of our Synagogue at its recent annual meeting.

Of the matters that usually trouble congregations, that burdened us for so long in the past, few remain overly vexatious in our case. As Mr. Benjamin Sack, Chairman of our Board, made clear in his concise and lucid report on the "State of the Union", our budget is balanced and better; our membership roster full to overflowing; the necessary expansion of our facilities dependent only on the finding of a site suitable to serve as an annex to our present structure.

We are prosperous as a congregation; we are externally successful. But whether we are to achieve spiritual success commensurate with the physical is not yet determined. That hangs on whether and how far we succeed in extending the frontiers of participation on the part of our members in respect to:

1. ADMINISTRATION: The active committees of our Synagogue are eager for new recruits. The Board has adopted a principle of "rotation" whereby room is created each year for new Trustees. Both the committees and the Board are on the *qui vive* for fresh, talented human material. They would be aided immeasurably were interested persons to declare their interest, whether to the Rabbis or to Mr. Sack.

2. EDUCATION: It is a bold, ambitious plan which our Committee on Adult

Education has launched, that of canvassing every Synagogue member for enrollment in our many Home Study Circles, and a device that has met with gratifying success. Almost three hundred persons have registered for and are attending one or the other of these groups. But three hundred is less than one-seventh of our total Synagogue population. We cannot rest until the number of our students more closely approximates the number of souls.

3. ATTENDANCE AT WORSHIP: It was on this, along with home observance, that Dr. E. D. Friedman, our President, concentrated in his learned and stirring address, such an address as few congregations are privileged to hear from their leaders, whether rabbinic or lay. It is this self-same point, frequency and regularity in Synagogue-going, that I echoed and underscored in my remarks. This, I am convinced, is the nub of the matter for us who believe not only in the survival of Judaism but in the *religious* character of the Judaism we seek to perpetuate. Two types of spiritual bankruptcy threaten us: The failure on the part of the Synagogue to provide a meaningful form of worship, traditional and at the same time relevant to contemporary insights and aspirations; failure on the part of the congregation as a whole to participate in the religious exercises which the congregation provides.

On every earnest member therefore there devolves as one of his supreme duties the obligation to attend worship regularly. That the discharge of this *mitzvah* is feasible is established by some of our members, among them the busiest.

Let it then be understood henceforth that habitual Synagogue attendance is expected of every member of the congregation. Especially is it required of those who aspire to leadership in our midst. No one, regardless of his other qualifications, should be returned to office or elected to it except on the assumption that his leadership will be not only fiscal or administrative, but significantly spiritual as well.

As Dr. Friedman pronounced, and as I said Amen, at the annual membership meeting: **Participation is our problem.**

—MILTON STEINBERG

The Importance of Congregational Singing

Since this is "Jewish Music Festival" Month, it is appropriate that we reprint the following article written by Cantor David J. Putterman for United Synagogue Features.—EDITOR'S NOTE.

The problem of congregational singing has for many years been the concern of Rabbis, Cantors, Congregational Ritual Committees, Music Directors, Composers, Musicians, etc. Conferences have been held on "The Status of Congregational Singing", important papers were presented by qualified experts, resolutions were adopted and as yet—little if anything has been done to implement all the findings and conclusions. This writer therefore feels that by becoming acquainted with the problems of congregational singing, we will be the better able to solve them.

Secular Music Not For Synagogue

Many melodies which have become "standard" songs for congregational singing have no place in religious worship. The seeming readiness on the part of congregations to continue to use congregational melodies which introduce foreign musical elements in the service, such as the practice of adapting prayer texts to operatic arias, popular secular songs, dance melodies and numerous other songs which have become accepted "hit" or "show" tunes, have no place in synagogue services. It is the duty of the Cantor or the person responsible for the music of the synagogue, to dissuade and discourage the continued use of these songs, no matter whose fanciful tastes they may happen to satisfy. The fact that they are "traditionally" or "universally" used in other congregations or that there are congregants who enjoy singing these melodies, is no valid reasons for continuing to use them. The melodies for congregational singing must be chosen skillfully and carefully. They must be melodic, musical, within the singing range of the average voice, and based on *Nuschaot*—traditional prayer modes.

Maximum Participation Desirable

A most meaningful service is the one which aims towards a maximum of congregational participation in worship, prayer and song. The musical portion of the service should allow sufficient

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Magician Featured at Junior League Event

Mr. Theo Doré, renowned magician will be the guest at the next open meeting of the Junior League which will take place on Sunday evening, February 13th, at 8:30, in the Vestry. This is a repeat performance for Mr. Doré, since he was the guest of the Junior League last year. At that time he gave a wonderfully absorbing performance and those who have not seen him perform have a treat in store. Admission to the affair will be \$1.25 a person. A social hour and refreshments will follow the entertainment. Miss Hortense Levy and Mr. Warren Ringler will be Co-chairmen for this affair and all the young people of the Synagogue and their friends are cordially invited to come.

Home Study Course Continues

The Junior League's Home Study Course "Israel Today", under the auspices of the Adult Education Committee continues with excellent attendance. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, February 17th, with Miss Rachel Elash as the lecturer on "Religion in Israel". This will be an objective study of the status of religion in Israel today, the evolution of religious forms, problems of orthodoxy, and the place of religion in the new Jewish State. This meeting will take place in the Synagogue and will begin promptly at 8:30 p.m.

Oscar Julius Choir

(Continued from page 1)

The Oscar Julius Choir of men and boys, heard on a previous occasion by the Congregation, will again be the guest artists for the evening. The choir which will be personally directed by its conductor, Mr. Oscar Julius, will render its musical program from the pulpit of the Synagogue.

A rare treat is in store for all. You are urged to be in your seats promptly at 8:30 p.m. Please do not confuse this service with the forthcoming Seventh Annual Sabbath Evening Service by Contemporary Composers which, this year, will take place on Friday evening, May 20th.

Rules for Use of Kitchen Facilities Explained

The attention of the Congregation is called to the fact that our kitchen has recently been brought into genuine conformity with the Jewish dietary laws. The cooperation of all organizations using the kitchen is asked so that our Congregation may be beyond reproach in this matter of Jewish traditional observance. Both Mrs. Ethel Sivek and Mr. Oscar Seaholm, our plant superintendent, can give information and guidance in respect to the dishes and silverware.

Brotherhood Week Theme of Men's Club, Feb. 15th

On Tuesday evening, February 15th, at 8:15 p.m. in the Vestry of the Synagogue, the Men's Club will play host to the entire Men's Club of Christ Church, which is located at Park Avenue and 60th Street. This meeting is the Men's Club way of marking Brotherhood Week.

In honor of the occasion a very interesting program has been arranged. Rabbi Milton Steinberg and Rabbi Morris Kertzer will deliver short messages. In addition, there will be brief addresses given by Dr. Kenneth Neal Alexander, who is the Associate Minister of Christ Church as well as by Dr. Willard Johnson, National Director of the Conference of Christians and Jews. He is also the commentator on N.B.C.'s "Religion and the News".

Collation to Follow Addresses

Following the main part of the evening, there will be a social hour. All members of the Men's Club and male congregants of the Synagogue are urged to attend this event and help celebrate Brotherhood Week. Mr. Joseph H. Katz, Chairman of the Program Committee will be Chairman for the evening. This meeting should be a milestone in the history of our Congregation and of the Men's Club.

ZOA Arranges Trip to Israel for Passover

The first Passover since the establishment of the Jewish State will be celebrated in Israel by a group of American Zionists under the sponsorship of the Membership Department of the Zionist Organization of America, according to an announcement by Joseph Goldberg of Worcester, Mass., ZOA National Membership Director.

Arrangements have been completed with Air France and World View Tours, for specially chartered planes. The planes are scheduled to depart on April 7th and to return on April 29th.

All Accommodations Have Been Arranged for Those Going

The ZOA-sponsored tour of the Jewish State will include hotel accommodations (which are otherwise unavailable until next fall) and guided visits to colonies, industrial establishments and biblical and historic places of interest. Israel's traditional holiday of liberation will be observed at a special ZOA *seder* in Jerusalem.

In addition to a two-week stay in Israel, the party will spend several days in Paris. Kosher meals will be provided by the Zionist Organization of America on the two-way Comet Constellation trip, as well as during the party's stay in the French capital.

Complete information concerning reservations for the ZOA Trip to Israel may be obtained from the National Membership Department, Zionist Organization of America, 41 East 42nd Street, New York 17, New York.

Religious School Sets Good Attendance Record

The students of our Religious School deserve congratulations for their good attendance record. A comparative study of attendance records for twenty schools recently issued by the Metropolitan Council of the United Synagogue showed that our Hebrew School was second in attendance with 95%, and the Sunday School ranked fifth with 86%. Our students hope to better this record during the month of February.

Plan to Attend Sisterhood Luncheon, March 30th

Congregational Singing

(Continued from page 2)

time for the Cantor to give expression to his *Hazanic* artistry, for the choir to sing its prepared compositions, and for the Cantor and choir to lead the congregation in song.

The most successful medium for greater participation in song, is to organize a group of congregants from those who regularly attend worship and have them meet with the Cantor as often as possible to learn the congregational melodies. During worship this group should be dispersed throughout the congregation so that they may act as section leaders, and by their singing, inspire those who surround them to join with them. The Cantor, the Rabbi, the choir and the pulpit officials should at all times lead the congregation in every phase of congregational participation. In synagogues where there are Junior Congregations, it is desirable that their congregational melodies be the same as those used at the adult services, so that when the children attend the regular adult services, they will immediately feel "at home" and will eagerly participate.

To Standardize Sabbath Music

Conservative Congregations are increasingly becoming aware of the advantages in the use of one uniform prayer book. It is therefore equally important that congregational melodies in Conservative Synagogues likewise be uniform. Realizing this importance and the need for a source which shall contain authentic congregational melodies for the Sabbath service, The Cantors Assembly and The Department of Music of the United Synagogue of America, are now engaged in collecting and compiling materials for the publication of a Songster of Sabbath melodies for congregational singing. It is to be hoped that standardized congregational singing will be an added incentive for larger attendances at worship.

DAVID J. PUTTERMAN

Please Be Seated

The Ushering Committee of the Synagogue requests that members of the Congregation occupy the front rows of the auditorium whenever possible, so that the last pews will remain for those who arrive during the Services.

Rabbi Kertzer to Speak at YPL Conference

Rabbi Kertzer will address the National Young People's League Educational Conference on Sunday afternoon, February 20th, 1949, at *Har Zion* Temple in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Speaking at the brunch session, Rabbi Kertzer will address the group on "Man and God". The general theme of the conference is "Living as a Jew Today".

Participation of Junior League Members Urged

Other speakers at the Conference will include Rabbi Simon Greenberg, Acting President of the Jewish Theological Seminary, and Hon. Mordecai Konowitz, former President of Metropolitan Council of United Synagogue of America. The charge for the conference which will include brunch, will be \$1.00. Members of the Junior League are urged to participate in this event.

Sisterhood Luncheon Plans Progressing

The Sisterhood's Annual Donor Luncheon will be held this year at the Biltmore Hotel on March 30th. Mrs. Seymour Wimpfheimer is Chairman of this event.

The sale of one luncheon book for a total of fifteen dollars entitles one to the luncheon and, in addition, to the musical which is always worth the price of admission alone, and many valuable prizes.

Send in all luncheon book stubs as soon as possible, together with your checks, please. It is impossible for Sisterhood to complete all of its obligations without the full cooperation of its members. Captains are urged to keep in touch with members of their teams, so that this year's luncheon may surpass all others.

Bar Mitzvah

Congratulations to Sam Spilo, son of Mrs. Aida Spilo, who celebrated his *Bar Mitzvah* on Saturday, January 29th.

Engagement

Our felicitations to Miss Marilyn Metzger, whose engagement has recently been announced by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Metzger.

Rabbi A. Gordon Speaks

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pulpit for sixteen years. Rabbi Gordon has been active in civic affairs as well as in Jewish and Zionist activities, presenting a weekly radio broadcast, serving as a labor arbitrator in various industries in Minnesota, and as a public panel representative for the National War Labor Board from 1943 until its dissolution.

United Synagogue Sabbath will be a most powerful demonstration of Conservative Judaism and will bring "home" to the rank and file membership of the congregations, the work of the United Synagogue of America, its program, scope and aims. This special Sabbath will focus attention upon the unity in purpose and action of the United Synagogue Family, of Congregation, Sisterhood, Men's Club and YPL—the backbone of Conservative Judaism in the community.

A special *Oneg Shabbat* program prepared for this occasion will follow the service.

Mark Your Calendar

Tues. Afternoon—February 15th
Sisterhood Birthday Party.

Tuesday Evening—February 15th
Men's Club Brotherhood Program.

Wednesday Evening—March 9th
Parents' Association open meeting
—Guest speaker Dr. Isidor Silberman.

Monday Evening—March 14th
Annual Congregational Purim Party.

THE PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE

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